

APRIL 1991

Point three

PRICE 30p




In this issue:

Project : Why prison is worth avoiding
Tokyo Venture • Bramley Branch
Rediscovering Our Roots

The magazine of



Point three

the magazine of  **TOC H**

Toc H is a movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is a group - at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood - which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Rev P B 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points.

'By their fruits you shall know them'

April's issue sees the close of our Great War series, which became interestingly controversial. Some members considered it to be looking at our past too closely, while others, like the Revd John Weaver from Rushden Branch, felt that 'the spiritual dimension of Toc H comes out far more in these articles than anything else in *Point three*'. For the editor, the greatest possible satisfaction was the privilege of talking to those survivors of a lost generation, whose destiny was to be wiped out when they had scarcely embarked on adult life.

But John's comments on the spiritual dimension of Toc H are an important reminder, and he has written a powerful article in this issue, 'Rediscovering our Roots', which reminds us, at the time of the Resurrection, of 'the sacrificial love of the Cross of Christ, a love that is possible for Christians through the indwelling presence and power of the Spirit of God'.

The article paves the way for a new series, beginning in May, which looks at aspects of the Decade of Evangelism. It is an interesting fact that when Tubby Clayton began the movement the majority of people were churchgoers, but the numbers have since decreased to a mere 5 per cent of the population. And yet the spiritual needs of man and woman persist. There is a longing for a meaning for living which goes beyond material possessions and social status and gives a glimpse of some common purpose for all human beings. It finds its outlet in the most curious ways, such as the alignment of the stars and a fascination with birth signs and horoscopes.

In many churches something very interesting is happening. The old hymns have been replaced by altogether more lively and rousing tributes, and the emotional dimension is the focus of the service - which puts off many traditional churchgoers. Some argue that the manifestation of spirituality in Charismatic churches brings Christianity much more in line with religions like Hinduism and its emphasis on chanting and meditation.

The growth area in the church today, regardless of denomination, is undoubtedly reflected in the Fundamentalist and Charismatic aspects of evangelism. We will be looking at the new Christians and also at the various interpretations of *John 14 (6 & 7)*: 'Jesus said to him, *'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him.'*

The intention is not to be controversial but to stimulate interest amongst readers from what are, in fact, the personal views of the individual contributors. Some Christians believe that they have been given an exclusive *contribution* to the Truth, while others feel that they have access to the *whole* truth. Still others believe that, as Christians, there is much to be learnt from all other religions and from the spirituality of the individual. Or that, in the words of D H Lawrence, 'I love the sun in any man when I see it between his brows, pure and fearless, even if tiny'. I feel a lot of sympathy with Christians who have to admit that they dare not claim to have fully understood Jesus and His relevance to modern living.

Ruth Boyd

Editor: Ruth Boyd
Editorial Assistant: Thomas Hill Long

Cover

Jean Oreel Batteau of Poperinge, Belgium, has been associated with Talbot House for 75 years
photo: The Revd. Alan Johnson

Letters, articles and news items are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, *Point three*, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT. (Tel: 0296 623911)

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H movement.

Point three is available from Toc H Headquarters. Price: 30p per copy or £3.60 per years subscription. Any contribution towards the high cost of postage will be gratefully accepted.



Point three is printed
on recycled paper.

John Dunwell reports a recent highly exciting Toc H Project in the Yorkshire Dales which explored why prison isn't a character-building experience.

Why prison is worth avoiding

Our project at the Colsterdale Centre involved a mixture of volunteers recruited through the Toc H projects booklet, volunteers currently serving or who have served prison sentences, and juveniles whose behaviour might result in their later serving a custodial sentence. The objective was to encourage the juvenile 'at risk' offenders to reflect on and change their behaviour having heard peoples' personal experiences of prison life.

The volunteers were from interesting and varied backgrounds, including two male prisoners from Deerbolt Young Offender Institution, Levy and Alan; three male juveniles referred by North Yorkshire Social Services Department, Sean, Thomas and Alex; Richard, a former mental health patient and Christine, a Probation volunteer co-ordinator; volunteers recruited via the projects booklet, plus Norah, Alison and John, members of Toc H staff. We had been hoping to get a prison officer/volunteer and two other ex-offenders referred by North Yorkshire Probation Service, but they were unable to attend.

The project started on a Friday evening, which was devoted to introducing participants to each other. Such was the success of this that it set the course for the whole weekend. One of the Deerbolt volunteers was so taken with Toc H that he later contacted a local radio phone-in to enthuse about us.

Saturday was given to practical conservation work clearing a stretch of bridle path of overhanging vegetation. Working 'shoulder to shoulder' further encouraged participants to get to know each other. Back at the centre, the serious content of our evening programme followed on from an entertaining half hour of charades led by Sean. We tackled a thought-provoking exercise of listing the reasons for and against offending/prison. This was followed by an exercise which showed how some participants would deal with life's difficult situations while others attempted to anticipate their responses.

Sunday began with a discussion about Toc H and led on to opinions about Christianity. A brief concluding session was a summary of everyone's thoughts about the weekend, which were mostly very positive.

The project had succeeded in bringing together a mixed group of people who interacted well. There had been a good deal of discussion and people were very open. We remain realistic about the long-term success rate of diverting juveniles from future offending, but would like to believe that the project has made them stop and think.



Toc H Consultation Day

Following the project was a consultation day in Middlesbrough when I met agencies involved in working with offenders, together with Norah Anderson (Development Officer Projects) and Alison Andrieux (Long Term Volunteer). One of the intentions was to formulate a plan for establishing support in the community for those people who have been released from prison, or who have completed their association with the probation service or similar bodies. The intention was to encourage a break with familiar patterns of re-offending by offering alternatives.

The wide range of people present represented the voluntary and statutory

sectors and we discussed ways in which Toc H could help young ex-offenders in the area. The response was most encouraging and has resulted in a document outlining a 12-week programme for a mixed group of ordinary volunteers, ex-offenders and people leaving local authority care orders. There will be two residential weekends and ten weekly meetings and some of the activities will be drawn on the Friendship Circle model. This might be one step forward towards extending the model to ex-offenders and young people at risk.

John Dunwell is Staff Development Officer (North East) based at Colsterdale.

John Dunwell, Norah Anderson and Alison Andrieux are looking at ways in which Toc H might achieve greater involvement by offenders in normal Toc H activities like branches/groups and projects. They are also looking at the possibility of setting up new activities to attract offenders as well as other Toc H members and volunteers. They have established themselves in the local community in the North East, particularly in developing work with young offenders in the Cleveland area and making contact with various statutory and voluntary agencies involved with offenders. Their immediate task is to research the provisions already available to ex-offenders and to identify where there are gaps in that provision that Toc H might usefully fill. ■



Great War memories

In the last of this series, *Jeanne Oreel Batteau*, who was 5½ years old in 1915, remembers the soldiers at Talbot House in her home town of Poperinge, and her vivid memories of war are the more poignant for being seen through a child's eyes. A particular memory is of a party at Talbot House for the children who weren't evacuated, and there is a photo in the house to this day, with the caption: 'The Poperinge children who attended the party on St Nicholas Day, December 6, 1916'.

Talbot House assumed an enormous importance for the child Jeanne, whose best memories in life are of the kindness of the soldiers, for, as she is the first to say herself, she had no childhood. But God has given Jeanne Oreel Batteau other blessings, chief among which are the gifts of love and friendship, and anyone who meets her is captured by her spell. She spoke to the editor recently at her home in Poperinge about her great love for Talbot House.

'My father was a photographer who was employed by the British army as a war photographer. But it cost him dearly to keep his family with him. My sister Rachel [*Jeanne is holding the cart containing Rachel in the photo*] was 2½ when a bomb damaged the house. Her hair went white from shock and she couldn't walk afterwards. When she died, at 5, she was blind and deaf. He had a special passport to go to Paris each month to get his equipment. He took a lot of aerial photos and he developed these and other photos himself. No one was allowed in father's darkroom.



Rachel and Jeanne Batteau

We had to move always. We were based in two different houses. One was only 5 kms from Ieper and during the bombing we went to the fields and ditches for shelter. Sometimes we lay in ditches three or four times a night. Mama, Papa and four children. Hours at a time. Papa always took his cameras, it was his livelihood.

We saw two gas attacks. The first was in 1916 when we were at Vogeltje. Mama looked through the window and said, "It is strange, the clouds are near to the ground." She opened the door but then shut it quickly. The air was sweet. Her cousin's child, aged 18 months, died early at the age of 27 from that experience - an overexposure to what we call hypersulphide. I remember the clouds of gas and the bodies being brought back on carts.



French convoy in the Square of Furnes (Belgium)

The second gas attack was at Ieperite and came from Stainstrater. It was so strong and went straight into the lungs of the soldiers. The victims were brought in lorries and were laid out in ditches. We children had to take milk in ladles and put it into their mouths to relieve the burning as they lay there dying on the ground like animals. My sister and I and four other children. I have been there. I have seen that. It is horrible. You can never forget. That is why I say I have never been a child. When I see children play I always say I have never been a child. No, I never had that. I was nine years old when I first went to school.

After the second gas attack we had to go to the Town Hall and the British gave us gas masks with a cagoule and we had to wear them everyday. We were not allowed to go out without one until the end of the war.

Imagine the contrast of that sort of life with Talbot House. My first impression was of some sort of chateau. We always went along when some show was on, invited by the padre, Tubby.

I have a vivid memory of Santa Claus night on 6 December 1916. One of the soldiers was dressed as Father Christmas, and they hung apples, all covered in marmalade, on the tree in the garden. We were blindfolded and got our faces covered in marmalade from trying to catch the apples in our mouths. And the soldiers loved it, how they laughed. They were so kind; we were made so welcome. They gave us cheese and toffees. We could not hold them all in our little arms. We did not know what toffees were, but we soon found out when we tasted them.

They had concert parties, with soldiers taking it in turn to play the piano. The children left in Poperinge who hadn't been evacuated were always invited. We all used to join in, singing in broken French and English. I know all the songs and play them still. I play all the songs they sang.



The shop opposite Talbot House before and after being bombed on 24th September 1916



They rented Talbot House for 50 francs a years, which was a lot of money. That padre, Tubby! There were no two of him in this world. His soldiers were his own children and when they came into that house they were home. He told us once that he was busy baptising an Australian and a Canadian when he saw three Chinese heads appear on the steps of the Chapel. He said: "Go away, I'm not baptising anyone else!" Tubby never commanded anyone, but things got done.

We had a friend called Harry Robertson who came from Middlesbrough. He was at Hill 60, which was a terrible experience. One night two officers came into his trench. It was a bitterly cold night. One of the officers was very young and he said, "I know you are very cold and I can't help with that but I would like to try and get you something you need." The men said they would like some chocolate and cigarettes. He then shook hands with them all and left. Two days later a big bag arrived containing chocolate, cigarettes and sweets. The officer who brought them said that the young man was the Prince of Wales.

He was one of us from the war. He was loved by us; by the soldiers. He was no coward. My father took a photo of this young man. He didn't realise who he was until he was asked to produce twelve gross of the prints. It was only then that he realised he was the Prince of Wales.



Shelter covered in timber from the ruins of the Houthulst forest

All the town had to leave in October 1918. We saw all the bombs at Kemmel Hill. It was just like fireworks. I remember a Captain Owen saying to my father before we left: "In a few days you'll know whether you are still with us, or with the Germans."



'French girls keep green the memory of brave Englishmen dead on the field of honour'

I became a member of Toc H in 1957, but really I have been in it since I was five. Tubby was worried that our clergy would think he was trying to convert us from Catholicism. I remember him saying, "What have you done for Toc H?" You had to earn your membership. I said, "I am here serving tea." And I am still here. The Poperinge branch meets at Talbot House every Tuesday. There are over 60 members and our meetings are in Flemish. I still play the piano, play the old songs. I played at the BBC Radio 2 service broadcast from here on Armistice Day in 1988. ■

Branch Life in the 1990's

Bramley, Leeds

'Success is in being organised'

In the first of a new series, which looks at a number of different branches in England, Scotland and Wales, the editor visited Bramley Branch in Leeds, which has just recruited six new members.

It is very easy to see why people enthuse about Bramley Branch. It hits you as soon as you walk into their delightful welcoming room at Rodley Ecumenical Centre, West Leeds. If there was one word only to sum it up it would be ENERGY. That, together with their exuberant enthusiasm, makes the branch a joy with which to be associated.

There were apologies all round that only 14 people had turned up on the night I attended their Monday meeting. The other six were home with assorted illnesses. The branch was one of the first to go 'joint'. The men's branch began 52 years ago and the ladies' 28 years ago. They've been amalgamated for about 20 years. There are several husband-and-wife teams, and one of the most outstanding features of the branch is that everyone has something to say. I'd have joined on the spot if I'd lived in the area!

The age range is from 40 to 85, with an average age of 55 years. With only three elderly members, it is quite a young branch and there are an equal number of men and women. There is a very good mixture of denominational background - Baptists, Methodists and Anglicans - and working life. Members include a solicitor, market superintendent, nurse, secretary, business studies student, engineer and pensioners.

As well as being involved in joint community activities, several individuals make their own personal contribution, like Gwen, who fills in forms and pension books for the elderly, and Marjorie, who reads in schools. Exceptional among these is delightful Cynthia Ratcliffe, who, as well as being District Pilot, seems to spend all her spare time in looking after the needs of others. She modestly admits only to the fact that 'Church and Toc H are a way of life to me.' Then you discover that she visits 13 people in sheltered housing a week, travelling by public transport. She joined Toc H in 1977 and has been doing her visiting ever since. She visits terminally ill people in hospital and elderly people in their own homes. She talks with divorced people as a counsellor, is a pastoral visitor for the church, and runs an elderly ladies' group in her church. As if this weren't enough, she is famous for the 800 jars of delicious marmalade that she makes every year for Toc H funds.



Geoff and Doris Wright

While the branch used to take coal and food parcels round to the needy, chairman Geoff Wright says that this is no longer appropriate, 'as people are now not so much hard up as lonely'. And it is this very loneliness, the 20th-century disease, that Bramley Branch channel all that energy into alleviating. They hire films for the elderly, and 80 residents from eight homes are shipped around in the branch mini-bus (it has its own chair lift) to other homes twice a month for dominos matches. Nor is this amateurish stuff, they play to league standard, with one league competing for a cup, the other for a shield.

All the branch members are involved, rarely to play but to stop participants from cheating! The branch have been running the domino club for 25 years and many members are old hands at spotting all the tricks - but it requires a hefty helper input, up to 20 'monitors' a week. And this is a means of recruiting new members.

They also recruit people through having parties for friends and acquaintances who might be tempted to join when asked to do a job for the branch. They always invite people who are lonely, and seem to have an uncanny knack of tracking them down. They also have a club called Bromley Rainbow club - the old idea of Toc H starting something and then handing



it over when it is running successfully. As Geoff Wright says, 'Well you can't be involved in everything. If you get people to start running something themselves, you gradually let them take over. The club is for anyone retired, retired early or not working. Many Toc H members attend'.

Then there is Rodley Social Club which the branch started and which meets in peoples homes. They have dinners in restaurants and trips to the theatre or the playhouse. It was started by . Gwen, 'because we were always working and never having any enjoyment. It was started through the church and there are ten of us'.

They also run special projects. Most recently they helped at a hospital where a member, Bill, is involved. They had volunteers to take the residents out and they used to go there and make the tea and put on parties on Saturday nights for the volunteers.



The rest of their time seems to be spent in fundraising. This covers market stalls, tombola, galas and side shows at carnivals. They have some very good stalls, built by themselves. Their fundraising is extremely efficient and they raise enough money to pay for all their activities. They contact local firms and solicitors once a year and have an appeal at Christmas for funds. They also have a street collection once a year which raises over £250. But, as Geoff's wife Doris, a founder member of the women's branch, says, 'Whatever we get we spend'. And this includes an annual contribution to the family purse.

One of their main interests is in gaining publicity for the branch. As Geoff Wright says, 'If you don't work and let people see you and tell people what you are doing no one gets to know about you. Everyone in our area knows about Toc H because we get out. Anything we want publicity about we use Radio Leeds. We also have posters, do street collections, and decorate the mini-bus with Toc H stickers'. The posters are to a very high standard.

The branch is a traditional one, with a chairman, secretary, jobmaster, pilot and padre. Ken Quayle has been pilot for 15 years and the lady padre, Gill Lawrie, a deaconess, is Vicar of Bramley. Branch Secretary, John Pratt, is 48 and has been a member for 12 years. His father-in-law was a founder



John Pratt, Branch Secretary

member of the branch. John attributes the success of Bramley to the fact that they get themselves organised, 'so we know what we are doing. That's the essential thing. We turn up at an event and know what to do. The secretary and jobmaster are the people who need to be the most organised.'

The branch are saving up for another mini-bus, one with a higher ceiling so that people in wheel chairs don't bang their heads when they ride over bumps.

Joan Haresign, a Toc H member since 1965 and a former district chairman, joined Bramley 18 months ago and is now jobmaster. She is most impressed with Bramley. 'They are very go-ahead, always working at something, like stalls at garden parties and fetes'. Joan has been a nurse all her life and, together with her husband Ron, does a lot of hospice work privately.

They see their future as going from strength to strength and are worried that their meeting room is growing too small! Geoff says, 'The branch is as strong now as when it was formed and at any time during its life. It does as much work now as ever and there is so much enthusiasm. It is so active. The amount, and volume, of work is what keeps people interested. They feel as though there is a purpose. If we just sat and drank tea we wouldn't have 20 members. It is because we go out and organise things that everyone joins in. If you are working then it is a happy branch. The more work we do the happier we are. You only have to say the name Toc H round here and the door opens.' ■



Ken Quayle, Pilot



Joan Haresign, Jobmaster

This moving article, about a British prisoner of war who worked on the Burma-Thailand railroad and was then assigned to a Japanese transport unit, is an extraordinary lesson to us all in Reconciliation. Alan Elliott had a reunion, last Autumn, with his Jaanese prison guard, Kameyama.

TOKYO VENTURE

Alan Elliott

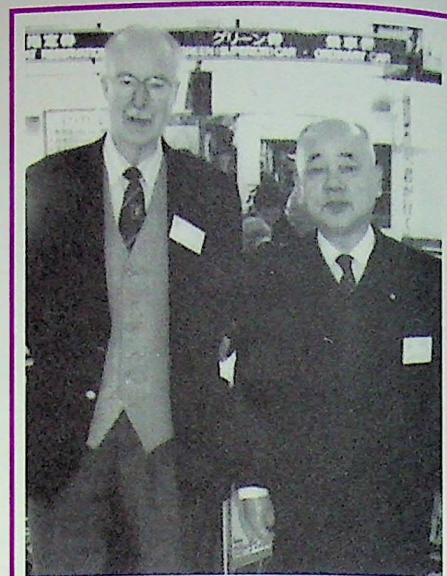
Reconciliation

The Fourteenth Army which fought in Burma thought of itself as 'the forgotten army'. The Japanese army that fought against them had much the same idea. For their fellow-countrymen, most of the war action was thought of as having taken place in the Pacific. The Burma war was nevertheless of heroic proportions. After early successes the Japanese got as far as Kohima, inside India. From there they were driven back with terrible losses. They lost something like 185,000 dead, in contrast to our 14,000, and had to return to a war-devastated country.

This seems an unlikely background from which a spirit of reconciliation would emerge between the respective combatants. But in 1965 a former Japanese quartermaster-lieutenant was posted to London as marketing manager for a large Japanese concern. His name was Masao Hirakubo. Little by little he began to meet, at an ordinary social level, some of the British forces, initially from 2 Division, who had fought against his regiment at Kohima and elsewhere. From these beginnings there sprung a small-scale movement for parties of ex-servicemen to visit each others' countries. In 1984 ten members of the Japanese 31 Division veterans' association (they tend to use the American term for ex-servicemen) came to Britain, and in 1989 there was another party. Small British groups went to Japan in 1989 and 1990. I was with the latter group.



The Yasukuni Shrine, Tokyo, November 1990. Alan Elliott with Shosaku Kameyama in front of an old Burma-Thailand Railway locomotive. In the wheel chair, Major Robert Cole, Royal Norfolk Regiment, another ex-POW



Meeting for the first time in 47 years. Narita Airport, Tokyo, November 1990

I do not want to dwell on that side of my experience, because, in general, the conditions in real life were very much worse than those portrayed in the film. But at the height of the railway work I was pulled out with 29 others and assigned to a Japanese transport unit as general workers around their camps, and to our surprise we were reasonably well treated. Wartime conditions, you will understand, are never ideal, but at least we were treated as reasonable human beings.

Much of this, we considered, was due to the Lieutenant in charge, whose name was Kameyama. I even began to learn some Japanese. Our stint with that unit lasted for eight months, but by the time we returned to the ordinary POW camps the worst of the railway work was over. Our Japanese guardians went on to Burma, where I imagined their chances of survival were very poor. Inevitably, though, my view of the Japanese was somewhat different from that of most other POWs.



Sasakawa Foundation Reception, November 1990. With Shosaku Kameyama and one of the Japanese ex-servicemen (and his wife) who had served in the wartime (1943) Japanese army transport unit

I got into this business in quite a different way from most of the others. I did not fight in Burma. Instead I was taken a Japanese prisoner of war in Singapore, and suffered the fate of many of us in being sent to Thailand to work on the Burma-Thailand Railway, the public image of which has been largely formed by the film *The Bridge on the River Kwai*.

When I got home I committed some of my experiences to paper, but otherwise did not follow up this POW period. I went to Japan in 1956 in the line of duty, but otherwise paid little attention to what was going on there - until early 1989

when the old Emperor died and a certain amount of controversy broke out concerning our attitudes towards the Japanese. I felt it was time to consider letting bygones be bygones, and got out some of my old notes.

As a result I went to Japan as a tourist in July 1989 and while there gave an interview to a journalist in which I referred to my wartime experience and mentioned Lieutenant Kameyama's name. I expected to hear nothing more, but two months later I received, to my great surprise, a letter from Shosaku Kameyama. He was a friend of Masao Hirakubo, who had continued to live in London after his retirement, and who had translated the letter for me. I was very surprised to find that Shosaku Kameyama had not only survived the war quite miraculously, but that he had been with the 31 Division party visiting Britain in 1984. This was the first time I had learned the identity of the transport unit for which we had worked in 1943 - and many other surprising things about it.

I knew that another British party would be going to Japan in October 1990, but did not consider myself a candidate for it. But then in July, Masao Hirakubo rang me to ask if I could join it.



Party of British ex-servicemen at Japanese Veteran's Association reception

These groups are sponsored by the All-Burma Veterans' Association, ABVU, and much of the finance came from the Sasakawa-GB Foundation. There were eleven of us in the party, ranging in age from 67 to 77. One of them was a former lecturer at Durham University, himself an ex-serviceman with an excellent knowledge of Japanese, who had helped with these groups before. The others ranged in former rank from Major-General to Regimental Sergeant Major. Decorations included the DSO, CBE and MC. But for this exercise we were all strictly 'Mr'.

We travelled to Tokyo by Virgin Atlantic on 31 October, and had ten hectic days until our return on 10 November. The All-Burma Veteran's Association had formed a special committee to look after us. Shosaku Kameyama was a member of it. He had, of course, changed in the 47 years since we had last met, and he had received a nasty but not disfiguring face wound. We had no difficulty in recognising each other, but we did have problems in communicating. To my shame, I had to admit that such wartime Japanese as I had

learned, and largely forgotten, was of little use. Japanese is a highly stratified language, so that grammar and vocabulary can change according to the status of the person with whom one is speaking, and I was always terrified that I was using the wrong words.



Alan and Ann Elliott

In spite of this, we all got along extremely well. We did a tour of Tokyo, we had tea at the British Embassy, and we had dinner at the homes of members of ABVAJ. My hosts had been in the Kota Bahru landing in Malaya in 1941! And for those who had fought in Burma there was much poring over large-scale maps to compare notes on long-ago battles. I was amazed to find that a former Norfolk Regiment captain with us had been in the battles around Kohima in which Lieutenant Kameyama and 31 Division had been engaged.

The most moving ceremony, perhaps, was at the Kudan Hall in Tokyo where the ABVAJ was holding its annual reunion. After being presented on the stage we made our way up the aisles shaking hands with hundreds of Japanese veterans and their wives or widows. After Tokyo we went to Hiroshima, Okayama, Kyoto and Hakone, where we were equally well received and entertained. On the way back to Tokyo we stopped at the Commonwealth War Cemetery near Yokohama where about 1,500 British and Commonwealth servicemen are buried, for our own small wreath-laying ceremony just before Remembrance Sunday.

Finally, there were large receptions for us given by the ABVAJ and the Sasakawa Foundation. For the whole of our visit we enjoyed nothing but the greatest kindness and consideration. This was in a somewhat uncertain period, in the middle of the early months of the 'Gulf Crisis' and at a time when Japan's 'economic miracle' was beginning to wear a bit thin, with a consequent diminishing of self-confidence. But we never observed anything in the way of a recrudescence of martial spirit. Japan is indeed doing well as an economic power and presents a serious competitor for the future, but there was no impression of them now getting their own back on us in non-military fields. There was a sense, rather, of pride in being able to show us all that Japan had achieved in pulling itself up from the pit of a devastating war - and of determination that this should never happen again. ■

BRANCH NEWS

Shooters Hill District are the proud owners of a new Leyland DAF V400 17-seater minibus which is available for use by any charitable organisation, providing it has a minibus permit. It will be used regularly by the Bassett's Club - transporting members to the local church handicap club weekly meeting; by Toc H Lee Branch for pensioners and deprived children's outings; and for a weekly club for the elderly run by the Eltham Toc H Branch. The new bus cost £17,000 and already demands for its use are coming in. Trelawny Cross will be happy to take bookings for the minibus, providing your driver is over 25 years of age and the organisation holds a valid minibus permit. He can be contacted on Orpington (0689) 860139.



North Wales and North West Region decided to help the new Toc H group in Zimbabwe, founded by LTVs Pete Davidson and John Rhodes, by providing a small bus for them. A start was made with a succession of jumble sales, cake stalls and raffles but it was going to be a long haul. The Regional Council decided to raise £5000 towards providing a vehicle.

More than 50 members and friends gathered at Shavington, near Crewe, to meet and hear Pete and one of the new Zimbabwe members, Dominic Sikuka - who came to England for three months and joined in the Anniversary Celebrations. They discussed life in Zimbabwe and the Toc H work and needs there. Unemployment and poverty were high on the list of problems facing the country and there is a need for all kinds of social work, from caring to conservation. There is a shortage of many things that we take for granted and public transport is almost non-existent. The LTVs had stimulated community service projects and Toc H membership during their years stay in Zimbabwe. Their success is seen in new projects with the children's homes that are linked to the new Toc H Action Group.

The meeting was inspiring and Cyril Carrier (Chairman, Mid Wales North West Region) reports that 'there is no doubt that Pete and Dominic were taken into the hearts of all present and that our Zimbabwe contact will continue far beyond the raising of £5000'.

Members of **Ashby Toc H group** raised £1000 when they opened a charity shop for one week. This was in answer to the Toc H Leicestershire appeal for money towards a new machine for the Children's Cardiac Unit at Groby Road Hospital, Leicester.



Photo reproduced by kind permission of the Leicester Mercury

Wyre Forest Branch decided to forgo their Christmas dinner and instead gave the money towards a pantomime trip for children from Towyn Infant School who had suffered at the time of the North Wales floods.

Bill Drinkwater spearheaded a fundraising effort by **Corsham Branch** to raise money for a pool lift and wheelchair to be used by disabled swimmers at the Springfield Centre, Corsham.



Photo reproduced by kind permission of the Bath evening Chronicle

Frank Dives of **Hythe Branch** reports that he recently wrote to the local Field Officer of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. He explained Toc H projects and enclosed a copy of the Projects Booklet. The officer replied that Toc H residential projects seemed ideal for their 'gold' participants, and he invited Frank to attend a meeting of the local Award Scheme panel, when local leaders would be present, and to meet the entrants. Frank duly attended, giving the panel a history of Toc H and the introduction of projects over the past 25 years, which resulted in an enthusiastic discussion, agreement to interest the 'gold' Award entrants in the projects - and a request for 20 copies of the next Projects Booklet for the use of the leaders.

Buckingham Toc H members have come up with a handy service within the town. Anyone visiting with a handicapped or disabled relative or friend can borrow a wheelchair for the duration of their stay.

When Wilf and Anne Fletcher of **West Central Branch** rounded off their Golden Wedding celebrations with a cruise, Wilf met an old Toc H friend from his early days at Leicester branch, Malcolm Skillington, whom he had not seen since 1947. Naturally there was much reminiscing to be done.



Swindon District. John Goodwin, Hon Treasurer of Swindon District Executive, has sent in a profile of fellow member, Vic Court, which appeared in 'The Swindon Standard', published by the Swindon Health Authority. A few excerpts: 'Vic Court - Uncle to his listeners - looks avuncular...a Mr Punch on a good day without the violence ... and yet his voice is probably better known than his face because Vic is star presenter of "Be Sick with Vic", the long-running Swindon Hospital Radio show which, in spite of its awful jokes and worse puns, the patients love.

'His involvement with hospital radio stems from his life-long association with Toc H, for whom he has been a hospital visitor for 37 years. Toc H donated the money and equipment to start the present-day Hospital Radio Swindon (HRS) in 1967.'



Harold Williams, Hon Treasurer of **Criccieth Branch**, has written to announce an important appeal the branch is launching to purchase equipment for the local Health Centre. This '1991 Project Appeal' is officially starting at the end of March. A leaflet, beautifully produced by the branch in both Welsh and English, has been distributed by hand to every household covered by the Health Centre. The target is to raise £5,500 for a defibrillator, a machine used to correct irregular heart beat and restart the heart after an acute heart attack. The Appeal Fund has already been opened with an initial donation of £800 by the branch. Another goal of this Appeal is to create an enhanced awareness of Toc H in the area. Harold adds, 'New members would be a bonus'.

At a highly successful coffee morning with side stalls, over £700 was raised by **Largs Branch**. The funds were needed for the care and maintenance of the Branch's rooms in the town, which are also used by a variety of other organisations.

Donations to Charities Fall by Third, Survey Shows

'The Typical Briton is giving a third less to charity than a year ago, down from £1.97 a month to £1.28, and 30 percent of people are giving nothing, a survey has found.' *The Independent*, 16 November 1990.

How does Toc H compare with this? We are doing well, and poorly, depending on which figures you look at. The average value of general donations from members and other supporters has fallen by one third, in line with the national trends, but the number of donations has doubled. In other words, more people, giving less, have increased the total income from donations.

This breakdown only includes donations under £1,000. If we were to include the very few donations we get in excess of £1,000, the balance sheet would look poorly on both accounts: both the average value and the total of donations would be well down on last year's performance.

Ian Pearce

Ian Pearce is the Fundraising Officer of Toc H.

Rediscovering Our Roots

John Weaver



John Weaver with his wife Sheila

My first contact with Toc H was in 1978, when I entered Regent's Park College, Oxford, to train for the Christian ministry. The College gave me an application form to apply for financial support from the Tubby Clayton Fund. But who was Tubby Clayton, and what was Toc H?

I was supported by the trust Fund for three years, then found myself as a fledgling Baptist minister in Rushden, Northamptonshire. The Toc H 'grapevine' had been working well and I was almost immediately contacted by the Rushden Men's Branch of Toc H, who subsequently invited me to be their padre. I was soon to discover four ladies branches and another branch in Higham Ferrers, just a mile away. The last nine years have been enriching for me, since I have enjoyed real friendship and support from the local family of Toc H. Speaking at various Toc H services and functions has led me to find out just exactly what Toc H is all about, why it exists, and what it believes.

I have discovered the roots of a wonderful organisation, but I am left wondering whether or not the Toc H 'tree' is now being severed from its roots. In looking back at the roots I have taken the Toc H Prayer as a framework.

'O God, who has so wonderfully made Toc H, and set us in it to see our duty as Thy will...'

In that converted attic of a chapel at Talbot House you came face to face with Christ - prayer, Bible, broken bread, and out-poured wine. It was seldom empty; on Easter Day 1916 Tubby celebrated the Eucharist single-handed from 5.30am until noon.

Talbot House was a place of friendship, fellowship, food and faith. Clearly this was a God-inspired and God-created venture - here God touched the lives of men at their extremity.

Toc H was revived and became a movement after the First World War because certain men, whose lives had been transformed and redirected in Talbot House, felt that they had discovered something of God's plan for all people.

Following a communion breakfast at St Martin-in-the-Fields in 1920 Tubby, together with Alec Paterson and Dick Shepherd, drew up a rule for Toc H which became the Four Points of the Compass - the direction-finding and guiding rule for Toc H: fellowship, service, fairmindedness and the Kingdom of God.

The movement was taking shape - God's plan, God's will.

'...teach us to live together in love and joy and peace; to check all bitterness; to disown discouragement; to practise thanksgiving; and to leap for joy to any task for others...'

The reason for Toc H's growth was in the fact that it offers nothing to its members except a challenge to give to, and share with, others. The message of Toc H in the early years was one of faith and works - and, like love and marriage, 'you can't have one without the other'. The love of God and the life of Christ is God's gift to us through our faith in Christ - there is nothing we can do to earn it (Ephesians 2:8-9); but if that faith is not seen in our daily living, in the things we say and do for others, then that faith might as well be dead (James 2:14-20,26).

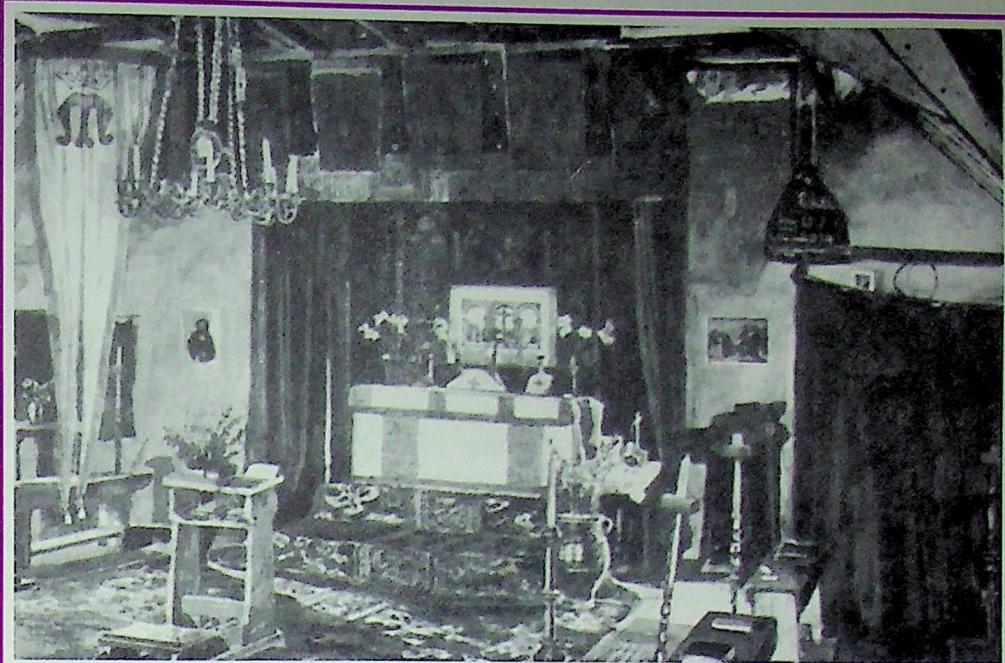
In the 1950s a Toc H leader said, 'Leave out the spiritual challenge, talk merely of service and unconsecrated fellowship, and your message might as well go unsaid'. At that time branches were failing through a lack of spiritual direction.

We have our four aims: Fellowship in service; Fairmindedness; Courageous adventure; and the Kingdom of God. Tubby told us 'to spread the Gospel without preaching it'. All of this is seen as 'Love in action'.

What sort of love does this mean? The answer is in the sacrificial love of the Cross of Christ, a love that is possible for Christians through the indwelling presence and power of the Spirit of God. Love is the first fruit of the Spirit - and as Jesus said of his followers, 'By their fruits you shall know them'.

Toc H took its first simple steps in service in 1920 by running an employment bureau for demobilised men. In 1926 at All Hallows, Tubby launched the Tower Hill Improvement Trust, which among other achievements saw the opening of a children's beach on the Thames at Tower Hill. Following a visit to West Africa in 1932 Tubby challenged Toc H members to fight leprosy with both the use of money and of personnel. All this was inspired by God and empowered by His love.

Talbot House was opened on December 15th, 1915, to provide a Parish Church and Institute for Troops in the Town. The Chapel was first made by the Queen's Westminster Rifles. The hangings came from the Bishop's Chapel at Southwark. The 14th M.M.G. presented the 'stained glass' windows, and various other gifts came from the Guards, the R.F.A., R.E., and R.A.M.C., etc., besides many personal memorials



Today we have unemployment, poverty, broken families, and the growing impact of AIDS. There is still work for Toc H - 'to leap with joy to any task for others'.

'Strengthen the good thing thus begun, that with gallant and high-hearted happiness we may work for the Kingdom in the wills of men...'

A good thing has begun - we do indeed pray that God will strengthen it, for without Him we can do nothing (John 15:5).

To work for the Kingdom of God in the wills of men. Does that mean that Toc H should be bringing people into the church? No. I don't believe that is our function. Toc H is concerned to reach the unchurched - to take Christian ideals and Christian truth into the world. For the churchgoers Toc H will strengthen and give opportunity to the outworking of their faith.

The Main Resolution makes it abundantly clear that Toc H is essentially a Spiritual Movement and has a definite Christian basis. Its supreme aim is to illustrate anew in the simplest way the Christianity of the Gospels applied to ordinary relationships and activities of the workaday world...to encourage members to worship.... In short, Toc H agrees with Dr Samuel Johnson that to be of no church is dangerous. But since so many men prefer to run that danger, Toc H refuses to provide a lesser substitute for their loyalty. It must not lead them away. It will not lead them nowhere. It longs to lead them to Christ, who has not left His Church.

signed P.B. Clayton, March 1930

We must with all determination 'strengthen the good thing thus begun'! We must take Christ into the world - a world divided, and a world in need - in need especially of the ideals of Toc H.

Light - 'Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven'.

In the early days of the Movement branches who did not live out this call had their lamps taken away. This is precisely what Jesus said would happen to Christian Churches who did not show His love and truth to the world - see Revelation 2:1-7.

'Through Jesus Christ our Lord'

We light the lamp; we pray the prayer; but what does it all mean today? The prayer calls for strengthening the thing begun. We need to rediscover our roots, we need to recover the love and power of Jesus - our Toc H prayer is in the Name of Jesus our Lord.

How far has Toc H moved away from its roots?

Have we severed the branches from the roots?

If we do this to a tree it always dies!

If Toc H does not maintain its Christian roots, then it remains yet another do-gooding organisation, and as such it will be hard pressed to compete with the likes of Rotary, Round Table and Age Concern; and will, like the proverbial old soldier, 'merely fade away'.

Toc H was founded on the sacrificial love of Christ, and operated in the power of the Holy Spirit. It can only continue in the way it began. It was founded on the Gospel of Christ, His love, and His power to do the job. Without this, it will collapse.

Toc H is not a bungalow; like Talbot House it needs its attic as much as it needs its ground floor. I believe that Toc H needs to rediscover its roots before it's too late.

John Weaver is Chaplain to 5 branches of Toc H in Rushden and Pastor of Highfield Baptist Church, Rushden ■

Your Letters

The Editor, Point 3,
The Toc H Centre,
100, Victoria Road,
London W12 0JF,
England. Tel: 01-627 1111

CENTRAL COUNCIL 1990

You were quite accurate in your Central Council report (January Point three) that my motion to have the Director's speech moved - and that the proposed sequence of events was constitutionally unsound - was turned down.

I have been dealing with such matters for nearly 30 years as Chairman of Standing Orders for a Trade Union. Councils can be manipulated from the top table if the delegates do not pay heed to their constitution and rules. This is a danger which I feel exists in Toc H. Perhaps one or two present do have their rule book with them, but they are at a loss to understand the intent of what is being presented. Maybe Toc H in its wisdom will suggest that all voting members will bring their charter with them to Council so that an understanding is more accessible.

Fred Davis Swindon



BOOK Review

Iona's Visionary

GEORGE MACLEOD

by Ronald Ferguson
Collins £17.95

I remember George MacLeod telling with relish how, at the start of his year as Moderator of the Church of Scotland, he overheard two men talking in a gentleman's club in Glasgow. One said: 'I hear the new Moderator's a Communist.' 'No, No,' replied the other, 'He's a Roman Catholic.'

He is, of course, neither; but the story points to two of the main concerns of his life, and of the Iona Community of which he is the Founder. He has been concerned to drag the Christian faith out of the box labelled 'religion' and relate it to the everyday world of work and politics. 'I am recovering the claim,' he wrote in a much-quoted passage, 'that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on the town garbage heap; at a crossroad so cosmopolitan that they had to write his title in Hebrew and in Latin and in Greek (or shall we say in English, in Bantu and in Afrikaans); at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble.' At the same time he has been concerned to recover for the Church of Scotland a richness of liturgy which would be true to the Celtic past (or his version of it), worship in which colour and music and poetry would help to lift people up to God.

POINT THREE ON COURSE

Congratulations for bringing a little fresh air and brighter thinking to *Point three*. The new graphics are pleasing and the return to Christian values assuring. Jack Harrison's masterly and cautionary tale, supported by the February editorial and Betty Blower's letter suggests that Jesus is regarded a little more highly than Allah, so my shouting in the wilderness, as I thought, was perhaps a little premature.

Well done. I have a feeling that from the members point of view, you have made a good start.

Colin Gibbs Wrexham

MUGGED FOR 33 COPIES OF POINT THREE

My apologies for being so late in replying to a letter in January *Point three*. The reason—on January 8th as I got out of our Secretary's car and crossed the small car park to our room I was mugged and a holdall I was carrying was snatched. This, incidentally, contained 33 copies of *Point three*, did we realise before that our publication is so valuable! I sustained a broken right wrist and I have only just 'lost' my plaster and am able to type. I can assure John Morgan that Nelson Parker had no objection to new experiments in Branch life (our small town has 4 branches so we cannot be a

George MacLeod is a paradoxical figure, an aristocratic radical, a Highlander with a voice formed by his education at an English public school, a pacifist with the bearing of a soldier. Ronald Ferguson, in this remarkable biography, brings him to vivid life, both the man I remember - the tall, commanding figure striding around the island of Iona, the spell-binding orator - and the man I was never privileged to know - the lonely figure, full of self-doubt, worn down by the burden of responsibility and decision-making; and the pastor who would always find time in his busy life to help a borstal boy or a bereaved woman in a Glasgow tenement.

This book makes clear the continuing influence of Tubby Clayton on George MacLeod. They met while George was studying at Union Theological Seminary in New York and Tubby challenged him to take on the leadership of the new Toc H movement in Scotland. George MacLeod believed passionately in the need to bridge the gulf between the classes and saw Toc H as the one organisation at that time which had the potential to do so. But after a little over a year he resigned because Toc H wasn't prepared to encourage intercommunion. He believed that, as a movement committed to Christian unity, Toc H must be prepared to take bold and dramatic initiatives. The Executive responded that intercommunion was a matter for the churches themselves. Toc H must stick to the rules and not risk excluding people by adopting 'gestures of its own devising' (in the words of the then Administrator, Peter Monie).

dying movement). However, he was pointing out that reams of questionnaires to be discussed at meetings are rather off-putting to prospective members. Sadly Nelson died on Christmas Day but had he been alive I know he would have penned a witty reply to JR.

Freda Parker Rushden

TOC H DIARY

When preparing the diary for publication, one supposes that the content is vetted, perhaps by the Principal Officers? If so, may it then be assumed that, collectively or singly, decisions are made as to what matter is retained, added to, or just dropped?

The questions are posed with specific regard to Prayers; and even more particularly to the disappearance (since 1989) of the delightfully cryptic *Serenity*.

Since its theme is change, surely the message was never more appropriate than today? Every single word of this little gem finds its place in our Toc H thinking; even for those members who unashamedly (like me) feel we have already travelled too far in accommodating every shade of belief from Almighty God downwards.

If space will allow, perhaps you would consider publishing *Serenity* in full, if only to highlight the last line.

Ernest Carter Welshpool

In this incident, writes Ronald Ferguson, 'George MacLeod earns high marks for idealism and commitment, low marks for political skills. He had not prepared the groundwork for change in Toc H, but had made a cavalry charge on his own.' It is tantalising to think what might have happened if the gifts of this remarkable man had been devoted to the development of Toc H during the 1930s. Yet when Tubby Clayton and George MacLeod were together on Iona I was conscious, despite their obvious respect for each other, of a certain wariness. The island seemed too small to hold them both. It seems unlikely that one movement could for long have had two such dominating personalities at its head.

Yet the ties between Toc H and the Iona Community were close, both in philosophy - the recognition, for instance, that people can best come to know each other by sharing a common task - and in personnel - Johnnie MacMillan and Oliver Wilkinson worked for both organisations at different times. And, of course, George MacLeod is one of our Presidents.

Ronald Ferguson became Leader of the Iona Community in 1981 and he writes with obvious affection and sympathy; but he presents a rounded picture. For instance, he gives what seems a very fair and objective picture of the painful period during which the Iona Community was a child struggling to achieve independence from its parent. During the 1960s younger members of the Community began to feel that their Founder was out of touch with the modern world and that his original vision needed to be

re-interpreted for a new age. George MacLeod had the wisdom to resign from the leadership; but he could not bring himself to refrain from interfering and his immediate successor, in particular, had a very difficult time.

All in all, however, this is an exciting, stimulating and inspiring story, grippingly told. George MacLeod is one of the outstanding figures of the world church in the 20th century. As preacher, prophet and pastor he has influenced more people than anyone could accurately count. With his charm, his wit and his energy he has lived, like his Master, 'that you might have life, and might have it more abundantly'. Even in his 90s he continues to campaign, sending leaflets about pacifism, world hunger and the renewal of the church, addressed in his own hand, to every minister in Scotland.

'Perhaps the key to understanding the heart of George MacLeod,' writes Ronald Ferguson, 'is his pre-eminent vision of the material shot through with the spiritual.' And it was above all in his leading of prayers in Iona Abbey that he gave voice to that vision.

The very atom is light energy.
The grass is vibrant,
The rocks pulsate.

All is in flux; turn but a stone and an angel moves. 'Iona', he liked to say, 'is a "thin" place - only a tissue paper separating earth from heaven.' For many thousands his leading of worship in the Abbey helped to make it so.

Ken Prideaux-Brune

Up Date

Angus Laing would like to thank everyone who has written to him with good wishes for his retirement and future happiness. His new address is: 99/5 Easter Warriston, Trinity, Edinburgh EH7 4QY. Tel.: 031 552 7295

Congratulations to Judi and Julian Ranson on the birth of Benjamin Michael.

WELCOME to three new members of staff. Alan Budge has joined us as a Trainee Development Officer, Kenneth Salt as a Part-time Development Officer with Birmingham Friendship Circles, and Karen Thomson as Development Officer (Projects) based at Newark Street, London.

Welcome to 19 New Members

The following new members were registered during January/February

John W Robinson (Barton on Humber J)
Geoffrey Barker (Calstock M)
Albert H Keates (Felpham M)
Miss Elsie Norbury (Hazel Grove J)
Rowland J W R Duncan (Jedburgh M)
Mrs Marion Findlay, Miss Mary Stevenson, Miss Catherine Stewart (Levenmouth J)
Mrs Helles M Cooper,
Mrs Eva M Egerton-Read,
Mrs Teddie Grant,
Miss Muyra Owers,
Mrs Nancy D Rawlance,
Mrs Doris E I Reynard,
Mrs Annie I White (Parkhurst W)
Mrs Elsie I Richardson (Plympton W)
Richard C Gentle (S.E. & West Herts District)
Mrs Cynthia M Sawyer (Trimley W)
Mrs Winifred M Harvie (Wigmore J)

Obituaries

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In October

Rose Doig (Levenmouth)

In November

Edward G Wright
(Potters Bar & Little Heath)

In December

Sydney F Love (Elmstead)

In January

Leonard C Abell (Loughborough)
Lily Ashley (Brandon)
Ernest Levitt (Station)
Olive Maling (Holland on Sea)
Arthur A Ratray (Gloucester)
Francis T Wayne (Tayforth District)

In February

Charles A G Brownjohn (Bexhill)
Trevor G Daniel (Treforest)
Lily L Davenport (Netherton)
Edward R Edden (Coney Hall)
William Fisher (Clacton on Sea)
Horace G Saunders (Wessex District)
Leonard G Topping (Eltham)
W 'Jack' White (Chard)

Not previously recorded—Olivia Bowen,
Violet M Hughes, Eva Luther (Bargoed)

Lily Davenport, who died 2 February, was one of the founder members of Netherton Women's Branch. Her loyalty and support will be greatly missed.

ID

Madeleine Vansteaceele-Benouwt of Poperinge died in November 1990 at the age of 71. Visitors to Talbot House a decade and more ago will remember her at the Oud Vlanderen in the market square. With her husband Valere, she always welcomed British visitors. Valere continues to live at 13 Garren Straat by the west door of St Bertin's Church and welcomes Toc H visitors and British friends to his home.

RJRT

Charles Brownjohn, a President of Toc H, died on 17 February in his 90th year. Charles first came into contact with Toc H during the 26 years he spent in the Royal Navy between the two World Wars and, to use his own words, was 'caught up by Tubby' at a time of expansion for the Movement. During the Second World War he was attached to the Admiralty staff in London, where he strengthened his links with the movement still further through All Hallows Church. He settled in Guildford, Surrey, and was actively involved in the development of Toc H at all levels. He was a dedicated Christian and, with an absolute belief that the future strength of the Movement lay in its adherence to the Four Points of the Compass and the Main Resolution, Charles interpreted Toc H as a vehicle for expressing Christian love in action. Following his retirement, he and his wife, Grace, moved to Bexhill, Sussex, and to the end he was actively involved in both his local church and Toc H. In offering Grace our deepest sympathy, we as a Movement also share some of that loss. In his quiet, unassuming way, Charles was an example to all of us of love in action. It was a privilege to be counted amongst his many friends.

REB

Len Abell, who died in January, was for many years a member of Loughborough Joint Branch, previously being a member of Shelthorpe Men's Branch. He served Toc H in many ways both at District and Branch level and will be greatly missed.

SS

Frank Leslie Gales, who died in Canada on 2 January in his 97th year, was a founder member of Toc H. A retired bank official, he is survived by his wife and his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren - by whom he is sadly missed.

JJ

Toc H in Wessex lost a loyal member and true friend with the sudden death on 19 December of Denis Braybrook at the age of 69. He became a full member on his 16th birthday, joining West Wickham Branch. His many interests included a lifelong devotion to scouting and the Gordon Boys Messenger Corps, a Trust which was started about 50 years ago by Toc H in Bourne-mouth to give financial assistance to boys with educational needs. In Wessex he will be best remembered in his role as Chairman of the Management Committee of the Toc H Hall at Iford. The District owes him an enormous debt for his unfailing support and for the amount of time which he so willingly put into every aspect of the work there.

EJB

Olive Naling, a founder member of the League of Women Helpers, died on 12 January at the age of 88. She was actively involved in Toc H throughout her life, both here and in Australia, where she lived for 22 years after the Second World War. On returning to England, she joined the Holland-on-Sea Women's Branch. She always gave enthusiastic support, with her presence whenever possible, to any special function organised by the Clacton Branches.

MT

We give thanks for their lives

THE MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND

Has your branch or group ever wanted to start something different, but because of lack of funds not been able to do so? I'm sure this has been the case many times.

A fund, initially of £10,000, has now been set aside for the use of members (NOT staff) for new developments and activities. It could be an extension drive or some publicity. It could be a new type of job in the community - such as a shop, a drop-in, or a quiet room in a hospital where people might be given a cuppa and a sympathetic ear.

At the same time the CEC has set up a new Branch/Group sub-committee, of which Pat Turner is the Chair. It exists to support branches and groups and to underline their importance. It is this sub-committee which will allocate the £10,000. The fund is not allocated yearly (as is the Warden Manor Fund), but grants can be made at any time if the sub-committee feels the application has merit. Application forms are available from the servicing officer of the sub-committee, who is:

**Carol Button,
25 Downham Mead,
Chippenham,
Wilts SN15 3LN**

THE TOC H CENTRE

(on the shores of Snowdonia, Port Penrhyn)



Situated on the Menai Straits surrounded by sea on 3 sides, this centre provides a perfect peaceful setting where you can learn more about yourself and others through leisurely study and energetic outdoor pursuits. Centrally heated, self-catering accommodation for up to 34 people. Easy access to Anglesey and A5

Contact: Toc H, Port Penrhyn, Bangor, North Wales.
Tel: Bangor (0248) 351906
or Penrthel (024870) 793

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT 1991

An international project is taking place at Poperinge in August 1991.

Work involved will include conservation work on and around the Pool of Peace, work with the War Graves Commission at Hill 60, assisting in the construction of an adventure playground in Poperinge.

Fourteen volunteers from different countries, including the UK, will be living and working together at Talbot House, Poperinge.

Much of the money has already been donated but a further £2000 is needed. Any donations would be much appreciated:

Leslie and Janet Major, 8 Wolversdene Gardens, Andover, Hants SP10 2BB.

COACH TRIP TO POPERINGE

A coach trip to Talbot House, Poperinge.

Dates: 26 September to 1 October.

Cost: £150 (includes travel, accommodation, meals and all trips)

Non refundable deposit of £20 required.

Further details from:

Pat Turner
60 Wall End Road, Wootton,
Bedford MK43 9HP. Tel: 0234 768410

(Overnight accommodation before the trip may be possible)

A KENT DAY

has been arranged for Saturday
8 June, at St Mary Church Hall, Ashford from
10.30am to 5.00pm.

A speaker for the morning is still to be announced; Pat Turner will be speaking in the afternoon.

The charge of £2 per person includes tea, but those planning to attend for the day should bring their own lunch.

The programme and booking form will be available shortly.

Further details from: Florrie Marshall
'Gaagrec', London Road, Sholden, Deal, Kent
CT14 0AD
(Tel: 0304 362679)

A FAITH TO LIVE BY

A PRACTICAL WORKSHOP FOR PILOTS
AND OTHERS

Friday 19 to Sunday 21 April 1991
AT TOC H CUDDESDON HOUSE

Pilots have the task of steering their branch or group through its life by the compass of the Four Points. Their role is a critical one in ensuring the health and purpose of the branch/ group.

During this weekend we want to explore the work of the pilot, put together practical ideas and produce a handbook which will then be available to all pilots.

If you would like to join this weekend, please send a cheque for £10 to Revd Alan Johnson at Headquarters.

A WEEK EXPLORING OXFORDSHIRE

Saturday 24 August - Friday 30 August 1991
at CUDDESDON HOUSE

Activities to suit your energies and interest will be:

Walking in the area. Visits to villages. A river trip. Visits to gardens and stately homes. Sampling hostelry. Visit to places of interest in Oxford City.

Join us for all or part of the time

Leaders: Daphne Dawes, John and Mary Edwards

Cost will be £105 for full board and daily transport. A deposit of £20 per person is required to confirm the booking. Cheques payable to Toc H. For further information and booking form contact:

Miss D Dawes, 338 Bath Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS18 1TQ
Tel: 0225 873022

PHOTOS IN POINT THREE

A mandate was passed at Central Council in November that Toc H should demonstrate its commitment to the environment by using recycled paper. The absorbent nature of this paper, plus the fact that the majority of the photographs used in *Point three* are snapshots sent in by contributors, causes the quality to suffer.

POINT THREE FOR THE BLIND

The magazine is now available in tape form for readers who are either blind or partially sighted. Several members have already taken advantage of this excellent facility which is only £3, including postage, for 12 months. Write to: Harry C Bailey, 27 Harrowden Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 3BG

Falmouth Toc H. Holiday accommodation for five plus cot. £60 per week. Falmouth 0326 312689

FRIENDS OF CUDDESDON HOUSE GET TOGETHER

Join us from Monday 6 May to Friday 10 May for a relaxing few days enjoying the company of friends. The cost is £72 per person and bookings should be sent to Anne Evans together with a deposit of £10. More details with receipt of deposit! Balance to be paid on arrival at Cuddesdon.

Early application would be appreciated: Anne Evans, 29 Newington Way, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 9PS

When British Telecom introduce a charge for directory enquiries later this year, customers who cannot use a phone book because of disability or medical condition will continue to get a free service if they register with British Telecom. Free registration line staffed by specially trained people available 8am to 8pm every day: 0800 919195.

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 10p a word (minimum £1) plus VAT, to *Point three* Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Hythe, Kent - homely accommodation in member's home. Bed/breakfast and/or evening meal or full board, very reasonable rates. Enquire Nesta Cock, 7 Toumay Close, Lympne, Hythe, Kent CT12 4LL. Tel: 0303 269407